

URBAN DISTRICT OF  
CANVEY ISLAND

---

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH

(Norman Lorraine, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.E.)

including **THE REPORT** of the  
**SANITARY INSPECTOR**

(E. Ditchburn, C.R.S.I.)

**For 1938**



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# CANVEY ISLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## COMMITTEES 1938-39.

### PUBLIC HEALTH, HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE.

*Chairman :*

Councillor G. A. PICKETT.

*Councillors :*

F. J. LEACH, J.P., J. E. LONGMAN, H. PRICE POWELL, E. RAYMENT,  
O. TOGNI.

Meeting: 1st Wednesday each month, 7 p.m.

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### COMPOSITE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

*Chairman :*

Councillor H. PRICE POWELL (Canvey Island).

Benfleet U.D.C.	....	Councillors C. E. BELL
	....	P. LANDGRAF
	....	H. R. TUTT, J.P.
Canvey Island U.D.C.....	Councillors	G. A. PICKETT
	....	O. TOGNI
Rayleigh U.D.C.	....	Councillors R. COOKE
	....	J. HART
	....	A. H. POOLE

Meeting: By arrangement.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health*—\*

Norman S. R. Lorraine, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,  
R.C.P.S.Edin. and R.F.P.S.Glas.

Also Medical Officer of Health for Benfleet and Rayleigh Urban  
District Councils and Assistant County Medical Officer, Essex  
County Council.

*Assistant Medical Officer of Health*—*Essex County Council*—

Esther P. Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Orthopaedic Surgeon* (part time)—

B. Whitchurch Howell, F.R.C.S., etc.

*Ophthalmologist*—

J. Horton Young, M.B., B.S., D.O.M.S.

*District Dental Surgeon*—

D. W. Hurley, L.D.S., R.F.P.S.

*Specialist, Ears, Nose and Throat* (Southend General Hospital—part  
time)—

C. Hamblen Thomas, F.R.C.S., etc.

*Health Visitor*—

Miss M. K. Knight, General Training, Oldchurch Hospital Rom-  
ford. Central Midwives' Board Certificate (S.C.M.), Oldchurch  
Hospital and Maternity Nursing Association, Myddleton Square,  
Islington. Health Visitors' Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute  
(new); Public Health Diploma, Battersea Polytechnic.

*Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health*—

Miss D. Grudgings.

*Sanitary Inspector*\*and Inspector under the Petroleum (Consolidation)  
Act, 1928, The Factory and Workshops Act, and the Rats and  
Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

E. Ditchburn, C.R.S.I.

This Officer is qualified in accordance with the Sanitary Officers  
(Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

*Clerk to the Sanitary Inspector*—

A. P. J. Cook.

\* One half of the salaries attached to these offices is paid by the  
County Council from Exchequer Contribution Account.

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1938

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
LONDON ROAD,  
HADLEIGH, ESSEX.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CANVEY ISLAND.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting, for your consideration, my tenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1938.

I desire again to express my gratitude to all members of the staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation and also to officers of other Departments for information and assistance readily given from time to time.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I should like to express my thanks to the Council.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE,  
M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H.,  
R.C.P.S. Edin. and R.F.P.S. Glas.

*June, 1939.*

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

#### Area (in acres)—

Island....	....	....	....	4,400	
Foreshore	....	....	....	2,031	
Tidal Waters	....	....	....	2,640	
				9,071*	

#### Population—

Census, 1921	....	....	....	....	1,795
Census, 1931	....	....	....	....	3,530
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1937	...	....	....	....	6,485
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1938	...	....	....	....	6,579

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)	...	3,886
Rateable Value	....	£41,868
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£155

\* The figure given for the Acreage of the Island, in previous Annual Reports, has now been corrected. No alteration of boundaries has occurred.

The Urban District is mainly a residential area. Many of the inhabitants are engaged in business in London, travelling daily from this District.

The District continues to attract a considerable number of elderly retired business people, many of whom are in receipt of a small pension. It is believed that this number, some of whom are invalids, forms a not inconsiderable percentage of the total population.

Large numbers of visitors continue to visit the Island during the summer months, the majority coming from London, and the District has gained no mean reputation for its extraordinary bracing air which undoubtedly appears to improve the well-being of visitors. At the same time, I would point out that this incursion of floating population increases the duties of all concerned in this Department, and also exposes the District to risks of infectious disease which are not to be found in a district where the population is fixed and stationary.

I understand that during 1938, 'buses belonging to the Canvey & District Motor Transport Co., Ltd., carried 1,860,006 passengers, an increase of 63,142 over the figure for the previous year.

There has been no undue prevalence of unemployment in this area.

There are no unhealthy areas in this District.



## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	.... 88	46	42	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the
Legitimate	... 84	42	42	estimated resident popula-
Illegitimate	... 4	4	0	tion .... .. 13.4
Stillbirths	.... 4	1	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live
Legitimate	.... 4	1	3	and still) births 43.5
Illegitimate	.... —	—	—	
Deaths	.... 84	37	47	Death Rate per 1,000 of the
				estimated resident popula-
				tion .... .. 12.8
Deaths from puerperal causes—				Rate per 1,000 total (live
	Deaths			and still) births.
Puerperal sepsis	.... —			—
Other puerperal causes	.... —			—
Total	.... —			—
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—(8)				
All infants per 1,000 live births	....			90.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	....			95.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	....			—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....			10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....			—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	....			—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	....			—

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which requires comment.

There were no noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity in this District during the year. There was no evidence that the occupations or environment of the inhabitants of this area had a prejudicial effect on their health.

No statistical or other evidence is available of the effects of unemployment on the health or physique of children or adults.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES  
DURING THE YEAR, 1938.

	Rate per 1,000 resident population		Deaths under one year per 1,000 registered live births
	Live Births	Deaths from all causes	
England and Wales ....	15.1	11.6	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ....	15.0	11.7	57
148 Smaller Towns with estimated resident popu- lations of from 25,000 to 50,000 at the 1931 Census ....	15.4	11.0	51
London Administrative County ....	13.4	11.4	57
Canvey Island U.D.C. ....	13.4	12.8*	91

\* This figure, to render it comparable with the death rate for the country as a whole has to be multiplied by the "Comparability Factor," 0.91, which has been supplied by the Registrar General as requisite to redress the abnormal constitution of the local population from the point of view of sex and age components. Applying this factor, the corrected death rate is 11.6 as compared with 11.6 for the country as a whole.

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

Year	Popula- tion Estimated mid-year Registrar- General	Births	Rate per 1000	Deaths	Rate per 1000	Infant Mortality Annual Report of County M.O.H., 1934-37	
						Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
1934	4,883	94	19.2	78	15.9	3	32
1935	5,584	61	10.9	74	13.2	3	49
1936	6,044	92	15.2	72	11.9	9	98
1937	6,485	84	12.9	82	12.6	11	131
1938	6,579	88	13.4	84	12.8*	8	91
						1938—	
						Local calculation	

# CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF CANVEY ISLAND.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN, 1938.

		Male	Female	Total
	ALL CAUSES ... ..	37	47	84
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—
2	Measles ... ..	—	—	—
3	Scarlet fever ... ..	—	—	—
4	Whooping cough ... ..	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
6	Influenza ... ..	1	—	1
7	Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	—	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	—	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	—	1	1
10	Other tuberculous diseases... ..	—	1	1
11	Syphilis ... ..	—	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the insane,tabes dorsalis	—	—	—
13	Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	6	4	10
14	Diabetes ... ..	—	—	—
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. ... ..	2	2	4
16	Heart disease ... ..	15	19	34
17	Aneurysm ... ..	—	—	—
18	Other circulatory diseases ... ..	—	1	1
19	Bronchitis ... ..	—	1	1
20	Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	3	5	8
21	Other respiratory diseases ... ..	—	—	—
22	Peptic ulcer ... ..	1	—	1
23	Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ..	—	—	—
24	Appendicitis ... ..	—	1	1
25	Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	—	1	1
26	Other diseases of liver, &c.... ..	—	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases ... ..	1	4	5
28	Acute and chronic nephritis ... ..	1	2	3
29	Puerperal sepsis ... ..	—	—	—
30	Other puerperal causes ... ..	—	—	—
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, &c. ... ..	2	2	4
32	Senility ... ..	—	—	—
33	Suicide ... ..	2	1	3
34	Other violence ... ..	—	—	—
35	Other defined diseases ... ..	3	2	5
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	—	—	—

## DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1938.

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>
Under 1 year ....	8
1 and under 2 ....	—
2 and under 5 ....	—
5 and under 15....	2
15 and under 25 ....	1
25 and under 35 ....	1
35 and under 45 ....	5
45 and under 55 ....	9
55 and under 65 ....	11
65 and under 75 ....	27
75 and upwards ....	20
Total Deaths ....	84

## SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR THE AREA.

## I. (i) PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

A list of these will be found at the beginning of this Report.

## (ii) (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4, and every advantage is taken of these facilities, particularly for the examination of throat swabs in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

The Bacteriologist for Essex examined the following specimens from the Canvey Island Urban District during 1938:—

Diphtheria ....	13
Sputa ....	2
Typhoid ....	—
Ringworm ....	—
General ....	—
Milk ....	3
Ice Cream ....	2
Water ....	—
Sewage ....	—
Total ....	20

## (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There have been no changes in the ambulance facilities for this District during 1938.

During the year 160 calls were attended by the Ambulance.

In the Canvey Island Urban District the Council maintains an Ambulance, which is garaged at the Fire Station, Canvey Island. This would appear to meet the needs of the district for accident and transport cases.

This Ambulance is not used for the removal of cases of infectious diseases. These are removed by the motor ambulance kept at the Isolation Hospital, Sutton Ford, Rochford.

If the necessity should arise, facilities exist for the utilisation of the Ambulance from the Benfleet Urban District and also the one which is provided and maintained by voluntary subscription in Rayleigh. These reciprocal arrangements have proved to be satisfactory.

#### (c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

In the Canvey Island Urban District there is the Canvey Island Nursing Association. The nurses are state certificated Midwives and undertake nursing at home in certain circumstances.

There are two district nurse midwives practising in the Urban District.

In many cases, if the sanitary conditions of the home are suitable, and isolation is possible, subject to skilled nursing facilities and general care, cases may be treated at home with advantage; however, in other circumstances, removal to hospital is clearly indicated.

In regard to cases of Tuberculosis, domiciliary medical service is not publicly provided, but is in the hands of private medical attendants who may consult the Tuberculosis Officer for the area, and who is also your Medical Officer of Health (see under Tuberculosis Dispensary). A Health Visitor visits the homes of patients, chiefly for educational and preventive purposes; in most rural districts the Health Visitors are assisted by District Nurses who carry out for the County Council any remedial or curative treatment which may be recommended by the Tuberculosis Officer or local medical attendant. In order to promote isolation and improve home treatment, an open-air shelter is provided and maintained free of charge if recommended by the District Tuberculosis Officer.

#### (d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS--UNDER ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Canvey Island Combined Treatment Centre was formerly opened by Mrs. H. de Havilland, wife of the Chairman of the Essex County Council on the 15th June, 1938.

The Combined Treatment Centre is situated in Furtherwick Road.

The building is constructed of sand faced red bricks, the outer walls being cavity type.

The pitched roof over the Waiting Hall is covered with sand faced tiles, the remainder of the roof are flats of fire-resisting construction.

The accommodation provided in the Treatment Centre has been arranged in the following manner:

A Waiting Hall, 35 ft. by 23 ft., occupies the centre of the building, and leading off from this on the North side is the Medical Officer's Consulting Room, also a Weighing Room, which will be used for Child Welfare and School Clinic purposes; a room for the Dental Surgeon is placed next to the Weighing Room, with a Dental Recovery Room adjoining.



On the opposite side of the Waiting Hall is the Toddlers' Room, which will be used in conjunction with the Child Welfare Sessions. This is divided from the Hall by means of a glazed folding partition which, when folded, enables them to be used together as one large Hall when desired.

A small Kitchen and Bath Room are also provided off the Hall.

Accommodation for the Caretaker is provided on the first floor.

The heating of the building is by a low pressure hot water system and the lighting is by electricity.

At the rear of the building and connected to same by a short covered way, a shelter is provided for perambulators.

Department	Address	Hours of attendance each month	Dr. in charge
Maternity and Child Welfare	Health Centre, Canvey Island	1st and 3rd Friday 2.30 p.m.	Dr. Esther Jones
Ante Natal ...	Do.	1st and 3rd Friday 10 a.m.	Dr. Esther Jones
School Clinic	Do.	2nd and 4th Wednesday 10 a.m.	Dr. Esther Jones
Toddlers' Clinic	Do.	5th Friday 2.30 p.m.	Dr. Esther Jones
Tuberculosis Visiting Station	Do.	3rd Thursday 2 p.m.	Dr. N. S. R. Lorraine

#### TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY—UNDER ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

Address	Hours of Attendance	Dr. in charge
Municipal Health Centre, Warrior Square, Southend-on-Sea.	Wednesday afternoons and by arrangement.	Dr. N. S. R. Lorraine

#### VENEREAL DISEASES.

A Clinic is available for Essex patients at Southend-on-Sea Borough Sanatorium under the London and Home Counties Venereal Diseases Scheme. Patients from the administrative County of Essex may attend for advice and treatment at most of the large London Hospitals.

#### (e) HOSPITALS. PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

There have been no changes in the provision of hospitals, public or voluntary.

TUBERCULOSIS—*Under Essex County Council Tuberculosis Scheme.*

Beds at Sanatoria and Hospitals are provided for suitable patients on the recommendation of the District Tuberculosis Officer. Any

person in need of institutional treatment should apply, preferably through his local medical attendant, to the Tuberculosis Dispensary nearest to his home. Travelling expenses of necessitous cases and ex-service men to and from Institutions are defrayed by the County Council.

Various Institutions in the County of Essex and elsewhere receive suitable patients by arrangement with and on the recommendation of the Chief Tuberculosis Officer.

#### *Maternity Hospital.*

There is no Maternity Hospital in the District, but under the Essex County Council arrangements are made for cases to be admitted to Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford.

#### *Children's Hospital.*

There is no Children's Hospital in the area.

#### *Fever Hospital.*

Patients from this Urban District are admitted to the Sutton Ford Isolation Hospital, Rochford. This hospital is administered by a Joint Hospital Committee with two members from the Canvey Island U.D.C.

There are 24 beds for patients suffering from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever. When no further accommodation is available, arrangements are made for such cases to be admitted to the Billericay Isolation Hospital.

As mentioned in my Annual Report for 1937, the South-East Essex Joint Hospital Order, 1937, provides for the Urban Districts of Benfleet, Billericay, Brentwood, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and the Rural District of Rochford to be formed into one united district for the purposes of the provision, maintenance and management for the use of the inhabitants of the constituent districts of hospitals for the reception of cases of infectious disease.

It is hoped that the Sutton Ford Isolation Hospital will be transferred to this Board at an early date. At the time of going to press this Hospital was transferred to this Board as and from 1st April, 1939.

#### *Smallpox Hospital.*

Accommodation is provided by the Essex County Council for patients from this District to be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital, adjacent to the Isolation Hospital, situated in Mill Road, Mile End, Colchester.

#### *General Hospital.*

The nearest available is outside the District and is the Southend-on-Sea General Hospital. Local residents may subscribe.

By arrangement with the Essex County Council and this Hospital, operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids in children is carried out by Mr. C. Hamblen Thomas, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

The following excerpt from the County Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1937 is of interest:

"It is estimated that by the time the present arrangement with the Southend-on-Sea County Borough Council expires in 1951, at least

200 hospital beds will be required for the area of the Old Rochford Hundred (which includes the Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh Urban Districts and Rochford Rural District) and that this number will increase to 250 over a period of years.

In October, 1937, the Borough Council intimated that they had found it necessary to modify their views so far as the Hundred was concerned, but that they were willing that their hospital should be regarded as serving for all time the Rochford Rural District, in addition to the County Borough.

As a result of a Conference between representatives of the County Council and the Borough Council, discussions are now in progress with a view to the formation of definite alternative proposals in accordance with suggestions made at that Conference."

#### *Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institutions.*

Arrangements are made under the Essex County Council for admission of these cases to suitable institutions.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children in this District.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. Ditchburn, for the bulk of particulars supplied under Sections C, D and E. In respect of any views expressed, I do not necessarily agree with these.

### SECTION C.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

##### 1. (i) WATER.

2,633 houses in the Urban District were connected to the Southend Waterworks Company's mains at 25th December, 1938. This is an increase of 246 houses when compared with the number connected to mains at December, 1937.

##### (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year ended 31st December, 1938, 178 connections were made to the sewer and by combined drainage connecting 481 properties. The total number of connections made to the sewer at 31st December, 1938, was 300 and the number of properties connected by combined drainage 776.

##### 2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Thames on the South Boundary is the only river in the District. No action was necessary to check the pollution of the river other than the usual public health measures.

##### DITCHES AND DYKES.

As has been stated in a previous report, the surface water drainage of the Island is solely dependant on the dykes and ditches.

During the year under review the condition of many ditches and dykes on the Island was greatly improved and thanks are due to the Canvey Island Commission for the work of clearing and grading these surface water drains.

The approximate lengths of dykes and ditches cleared and trimmed are as follows :



	Yards
Main Road Dykes from Leigh Beck to Russell Head Farm, Canvey Road ... ..	11,330
Various lengths of Private Dykes, tributary to main dykes ... ..	16,363

In addition, the Main Commission Dykes, between seven and eight miles in length were cleared and trimmed, this being an annual feature of the work of the Commission.

### 3. (i) PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Inspections have been made during the year at the Labworth Public Conveniences and the Public Conveniences in Seaview Road and conditions found to be satisfactory. Both these Conveniences are connected to the sewer.

New Public Conveniences have been erected in the High Street, Leigh Beck, and these Conveniences are connected to the sewer.

### (ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

*Cesspools and Septic Tanks.*—There are about 169 cesspools and septic tanks in the district. Numbers of these receptacles were abolished with the advent of sewers and those mostly in existence now are not within a reasonable distance of a sewer.

### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The system of collecting refuse from Council Bins distributed in convenient positions throughout the district is still in existence. The boundaries of the Council's Dump, situated off Denham Road, have been extended, by kind permission of the owner of the land and there is adequate room for dumping.

The present system of Refuse Collection is the most satisfactory, until such time as house-to-house collection has been established in the district.

The disposal of refuse in dykes, particularly during the Seasonal Period is a continued source of trouble.

Inspections have been carried out throughout the year under review of the Council's Refuse Dump, off Denham Road, and the privately owned Refuse Dump—Westwick Dump, Northwick Road.

It is interesting to note the total amount of refuse deposited at the Westwick Dump during 1938 :

	Tons	Cwts.
Rough Dust and Road Sweepings from Borough of Kensington ... ..	15,047	8
Factory Rubbish from Silvertown ... ..	1,206	0
Ashes from Tilbury ... ..	1,632	0
Ashes from the London Docks ... ..	286	0
House Refuse from Rainham ... ..	2,000	0
River Dredgings from Rotherhithe... ..	326	0
"      "      "    Millwall ... ..	300	0
"      "      "    Fulham ... ..	864	0
Total ...	21,661	8

This Dump is inspected during the year by officials of the Essex County Council.

In regard to the Council's Dump 805 loads of refuse were collected and deposited on the Dump from the 53 Refuse Bins now distributed throughout the district.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.  
SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Inspections	Notices					Interviews
	No.	In-formal	For-mal	Com-plied	Out-stand-ing	
Nature of						No.
Disinfection ...	16	—	—	—	—	12
Dangerous infectious diseases ...	22	—	—	—	—	20
Contacts ...	29	—	—	—	—	—
Disinfestation of Premises ...	10	1	—	1	—	26
Schools ...	11	—	—	—	—	2
Water Supply ...	322	3	48	32	19	40
Cesspools and Disposal Plant ...	23	3	—	3	—	6
Camping Grounds ...	357	1	—	1	—	11
Public Conveniences ...	10	—	—	—	—	—
Urinals and Conveniences attached to Licensed Premises ...	5	—	—	—	—	2
Hairdressing Establishments ...	12	—	—	—	—	—
Drains to soak-aways ...	138	8	—	8	—	8
<i>New Drains to Existing Buildings:</i>						
Commencement of Work ...	147	—	—	—	—	97
Completion of house drainage connection ...	389	—	—	—	—	49
Intermediate Inspections and Tests	1104	—	—	—	—	98
Miscellaneous Visits ...	53	—	—	—	—	43
New Drains connected to Sewer ...	387	5	—	2	3	67
Refuse Dumps ...	16	—	—	—	—	2
Council's Refuse Bins ...	21	—	—	—	—	9
Rat infested Premises ...	14	—	—	—	—	33
Petroleum ...	8	—	—	—	—	17
Ditches and Dykes ...	179	15	—	15	—	25
<i>Food Inspection:</i>						
Cowsheds ...	20	4	—	4	—	2
Dairies ...	29	3	—	3	—	7
Icecream Premises ...	9	—	—	—	—	2
Icecream— <i>re</i> Samples taken ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Butchers' Shops ...	14	—	—	—	—	—
Fish Shops ...	40	1	—	1	—	—
General Shops and Stalls ...	21	—	—	—	—	—
Kitchens ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
Inspection of Carcasses... ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Unsound Fish ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
Unsound Fruit ...	1	—	—	—	—	2
Cafes ...	19	—	—	—	—	—
Inspections <i>re</i> Milk Samplings ...	3	—	—	—	—	2
Factories—Outworkers' Premises... ..	5	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Bakehouses ...	30	1	—	1	—	—
Housing—under Public Health Acts	80	17	—	17	—	39
Housing—under Housing Acts ...	49	5	1	6	4	21
Overcrowding ...	15	3	—	3	—	4
Moveable Dwellings ...	47	3	—	3	—	16
Smoke Nuisances ...	3	—	—	—	—	3
Flooding ...	7	—	—	—	—	7
Mosquitoes—Dykes and Saltings ...	60	—	—	—	—	12
Stables ...	3	—	—	—	—	2
Houseboats... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—
*OTHER NUISANCES ...	122	29	—	29	—	68
Totals ...	3858	102	49	129	26	753

\* "Other Nuisances" relate to inspections in connection with caterpillars, general refuse, open foul pits, refuse from Kiosks and Stalls, disposing of sewage into dykes from moveable receptacles of earth closets, offensive smells, etc.

"Housing—Housing Acts." Under this heading it will be noticed that 6 Notices were served and 6 complied with during the year. 4 of the Notices complied with were served during the year 1937.

## COMPLAINTS ATTENDED TO DURING THE YEAR.

239 complaints of nuisances, etc., were attended to during the year.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES OR DEFECTS REMEDIED  
AFTER NOTICE.

## HOUSING.

Rooms cleaned	...	...	...	6
Sashcords renewed—number of windows	...	...	...	3
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	3
Floors repaired	...	...	...	5
Cooking stoves repaired	...	...	...	1
Rooms cleaned and redecorated	...	...	...	34
Food stores provided	...	...	...	2
Window frames and sashes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6
Paving of yards and paths renewed (Individual houses)	...	...	...	2
Roughcasting or other rendering (Individual houses)	...	...	...	1
Gutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	...	...	...	4
Sinks provided	...	..	...	1
Walls repaired	...	...	...	4
Additional ventilation provided (no. of rooms)	...	...	...	3
Doors repaired	...	...	...	1

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND  
OTHER PREMISES

under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on the 1st July, 1938).

Premises	Number of		
	Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical power ...	24	1	—
Factories without „ „ ...	6	—	—
Other Premises under the Act (not including outworkers premises)	—	—	—
Total ...	30	1	—

## 2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects	
	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ... ..	2	2
Overcrowding (S. 2) ... ..	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ... ..	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ... ..	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ... ..	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) :—		
Insufficient ... ..	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ... ..	—	—
Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—
Total ...	2	2

Other offences ... .. Nil

(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no scheduled offensive trades in the district.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no Common Lodging Houses registered with the Local Authority.

## PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936.

The Sanitary Inspector acts as Petroleum Inspector for the District. The premises where petroleum is stored in the district were inspected during the year, and eleven Licences were issued or renewed for the storage and/or sale of petroleum spirit at such premises, including that of the London and Coastal Oil Wharves, Ltd., for the storage of 100,000 tons of petroleum spirit at Holehaven Wharf, Haven Road, Canvey Island.

One application for the transfer of a Licence was made and granted during the year.

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The Sanitary Inspector administers the provisions of the above Act. Inspections have been made upon complaints and advice given. The number of complaints of rat infestation during the year under review have been less numerous than in previous years, this most probably being accounted for by the fact that many private dykes



have been cleared and cleansed, thus exposing the holes and runs of rats which have been baited with poison, which is supplied to householders throughout the year by the Council.

Special efforts were made during National Rat Week to make the general public more conscious of the menace of rats and mice in or about their premises by the showing of a Slide at the local Cinema and the distribution of Posters throughout the district.

#### (iv.) SHOPS.

No particular action was taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

#### (v.) CAMPING SITES.

Canvey Island attracts many campers to the district during the summer season and much trouble has been experienced in the past for the proper control of these Camping Sites. Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which requires Camping Sites to be Licensed by the Local Authority, which has power to limit the number of tents, etc., to be stationed on the Site at any one time, to require proper water supply, sanitary conveniences, etc., has been of inestimable help in the control of Camping Sites.

During the year three applications for Licences were refused for various reasons estimated to be prejudicial to the health of the occupiers of the Sites, and application for a Licence was not made in connection with another Camping Site, which, upon representation from this Department, closed down.

(a) The number of Sites in the area which were used for Camping Purposes during 1938	...	...	12
(b) The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936	...		8
(c) The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938			2667

#### (vi.) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was taken during the year with a view to the abatement of nuisance from smoke in the area as the District is mainly residential.

#### (vii.) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is no public swimming bath or pool in the area.

Inspections were carried out during the year at the privately owned Swimming and Boating Pool at Leigh Beck.

#### (viii.) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

1. Number of houses found to be infested :—

Council Houses	...	...	Nil
Other Houses	...	...	9
Number of other houses disinfested			9

## 2. *Method of Disinfestation.*

The affected premises are sealed and 1 lb. sulphur candles are then left burning in the rooms, before which all clothing, bedding, etc., is exposed by laying out and hanging on lines. All drawers of furniture are left open so that the sulphurous fumes may thoroughly reach all articles. Doors are then sealed and premises left for at least three hours.

In some cases it is inconvenient for the occupiers to vacate premises and in such cases a special spray insecticide is used. For this purpose a sprayer is used that gives a finely atomised and penetrating spray whereby a thorough spraying of all cracks and crevices is achieved which afford a safe harbourage for the insects and their eggs.

Both methods of disinfestation have proved equally successful.

## 3. *Methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses.*

This question does not arise as the Council owns only two houses, the Council Cottages at the rear of the Council Offices, and these are occupied by the Council's Road Foreman and Ambulance Driver respectively.

## 4. *The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.*

Of the complaints of infestation of premises received during the year 1938, in no case was the infestation of a serious character.

# 4. SCHOOLS.

The sanitary arrangements and water supplies at the schools in the district are still satisfactory. There are three Elementary Schools in the district, the drainage systems of two being connected to the sewer and the connection to the sewer of the drainage system of the third is contemplated.

School Medical Inspection has been conducted as in previous years by the School Medical Inspector, Dr. Esther Jones. Dental Clinics, including the provision of fillings, have been provided from time to time.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING.

As has been stated in a previous report a large number of dwellings on Canvey Island are constructed of timber and asbestos sheeting. The inner walls are constructed of asbestos sheeting, and numerous complaints are made during the year of alleged dampness. This dampness is caused by condensation on the walls and lack of sufficient ventilation. A noticeable fact is the large number of bedrooms without fireplaces and the point of dampness stresses the value of the chimney flue as a means of ventilation.

On complaints of dampness of dwellings owners have been given advice regarding the installation of additional permanent ventilation, and where this advice has been followed no secondary complaints have been received.

Another noticeable fact is the large number of "well rooms," that is, rooms where a complete circulation of air in the rooms is not obtained by reason of the means of ventilation being in close proximity to one another.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) By the Local Authority ...	Nil
(b) By other Local Authorities...	Nil
(c) By other bodies or persons ...	138
Total ...	138

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	72
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	133
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	24
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	42
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	33

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	23
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners...	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil
4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding:—
- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... Nil
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... Nil
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... Nil
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 7
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 10
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 41
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding... —
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

#### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

#### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Upon application one Licence to sell Pasteurised Milk and one Licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk were granted. The Licences issued were supplementary Licences for the retail sale of the milks from a depot in the district.

#### SAMPLINGS.

One sample of milk was taken from a churn on a milk float, one sample from a Retail Dairy and one sample from a farm dairy. All samples were submitted for the Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

The sample of milk from the Milk Float was certified genuine and the other two samples were unsatisfactory. By request samples were



taken by an Inspector of the Essex County Council in respect of the two unsatisfactory samples, under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, one of which was certified as Genuine, while the other was certified as deficient in Milk Fat. Further samples taken at the particular premises by the Essex County Council were certified as satisfactory.

### MILK AND DAIRIES (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1915.

During the year three samples of milk were obtained from Farms in the district by the Essex County Council and submitted for Biological Examination. The result was negative in each case. Twenty-four specimens were obtained by the E.C.C. and submitted for Methylene Blue Reduction Tests. Of these, 20 samples were satisfactory and four were unsatisfactory. Action was taken by the E.C.C. in respect of all unsatisfactory samples.

### MILK DISTRIBUTION.

Once again the obvious reluctance of milk roundsmen to collect empty milk bottles is very noticeable. During the year the question of collecting milk bottles systematically was taken up with the various dairymen in the district and has resulted in the return of more bottles to the dairymen than in previous years. The loss of large numbers of these bottles, which are most certainly not cheap, must be a big financial strain and it is surprising that the dairymen in the district do not pay greater attention to the return of these bottles. The only way to ensure the return of milk bottles would be by levying a charge to be redeemed on return of the bottles to the dairyman.

The adoption of the American System of selling milk in papier-mache cartons would ensure a greater measure of safety in the sale of pure milk.

### MILK BARS.

One Milk Bar was opened in the district during the year and the owner thereof was registered as a Retail Purveyor of Milk in respect of the premises.

The premises comply with the requirements of the Local Authority and the conditions as to cleanliness, handling of milk, etc., have been satisfactory at all inspections made.

### ICE CREAM.

The premises of ice cream manufacturers and vendors in the district were inspected during the year, and a large number of applications were made and granted for the sale of ice cream by retail. Special attention has been paid to street-hawking barrows and other vehicles.

The provisions of Part XI. of the Essex County Council Act, 1933, have been strictly enforced.

## (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are no slaughter houses in the district and so the question of the ante or post-mortem inspection of animals does not arise.

The butchers' shops are periodically visited and the meat therein examined.

In this connection the carcase of one pig, intended for retail sale, was voluntarily surrendered, and the whole carcase was condemned as unfit for human consumption, being affected with tuberculosis.

## FISH.

Fish shops in the district have been inspected and fish therein examined, as well as attention being paid to cleanliness of the premises and utensils.

In one case the standard of cleanliness was not satisfactory and the shop was cleaned and redecorated by request.

One complaint of alleged unsound fried fish was investigated, but the complaint was unjustified as all fish examined at the time and on subsequent dates at the particular premises was found to be wholesome.

Two Cafes in the district opened up as fish frying establishments for the convenience of patrons only. The conditions of cleanliness, etc., were satisfactory. At one of the Cafes the business of fish frying was abandoned as not being a paying proposition.

In connection with Fish Shops, 3 stone of Haddock and 5 stone of Skate were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption.

## CAFES AND RESTAURANTS.

The kitchens attached to Restaurants and Cafes in the District for the preparation of food have been inspected and the food examined, particular attention being paid to the storage accommodation being adequate, properly ventilated, and generally satisfactory.

## FRUIT.

Fruiterers and Greengrocers premises have been inspected and fruit, etc., examined. In one case it was found that soft fruit in the first stages of decay was being sold cheap to school children. The Fruiterer in question was warned of the seriousness of the offence and the fruit was destroyed.

## (c) FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

The Local Council is not a Food & Drugs Authority, such duties being administered by the Essex County Council. The following information has been supplied by the Sampling Officer under the Act concerning samples taken in this Area :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken</i>	<i>No. genuine</i>	<i>No. adulterated or below standard</i>
Milk     ...     ...	9	9	—

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION  
OF FOOD.

See under Adulteration.

(e) NUTRITION.

No special action has been taken during the year under review regarding special investigations on the subject of nutrition.

The question of adequate nourishment, especially for children, is carefully watched in this District and Medical Officers in charge of Child Welfare Centres and those responsible for School Medical Inspection have every facility under the Essex County Council for obviating the presence of sub-nutrition occurring in this District.

No difficulties should arise in respect of recommendations by those relevant officers, of milk, etc., and the list of articles which may be recommended is an extensive one.

In this reference, in schools the "free meal" (midday dinner) should ensure that school children are not likely to suffer from lack of nutrition owing to economic causes. Further advantage is being taken of this Scheme and in certain instances it has proved to be a boon.

(f) SHELL FISH (MOLLUSCAN).

The remarks as in my Annual Report for 1937 still apply. A Mussel Bed was laid about thirty years ago between Canvey Point and Thorny Creek. This was inspected by the owner about fifteen years ago who decided to abandon the mussel bed owing to the moving sludge.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND  
OTHER DISEASES.

During 1938, the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified was very small, namely, two cases of Scarlet Fever and six cases of Diphtheria.

Both the Scarlet Fever cases were removed to Hospital for treatment and made satisfactory recoveries.

The six cases of Diphtheria were also removed to Hospital, but I very much regret to state that one case, a boy, aged 6 years, died at the Hospital about ten days after admission of the case. The other five cases progressed satisfactorily and made complete recoveries. All the notified cases occurred among children of school age. Two of the children notified had only removed from London about a week before they were admitted to Hospital.

An adequate supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept in stock for the use by practitioners for the poorer inhabitants of the district.

In regard to Immunisation against Diphtheria, a local Scheme has been prepared and received consideration by my Local Authorities of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh. When this has received the approval of the Ministry of Health, it is hoped that the scheme will be put into operation during the year 1939, and when the scheme has

received the approval of my Local Authorities, the local Branch of the British Medical Association and the Ministry of Health, full details will be given in my Annual Reports.

I am glad to report that once again no cases of Smallpox or Enteric Fever occurred in this district during the year.

No case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified in the district during 1938.

One case of Acute Primary Pneumonia, a girl, aged 3 years, was notified and removed to Hospital for treatment. I am glad to state that she recovered satisfactorily.

One case of Acute Poliomyelitis, a girl, aged 14 years, whose home address was in Rotherhythe and who was staying on the Island, was notified and removed to Hospital in August. After investigation at the Hospital, no confirmation of the diagnosis was found and the case was de-notified.

Arrangements which were made during 1936 by the Local Authority for patients from this district suffering from complications of Measles to be admitted to the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases, Balmoral Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, for treatment, with my approval, on request from a local medical practitioner, at the cost of two guineas per week, are still in force. No guarantee can be given that an application for admission of a patient can be acceded to, as necessarily, the Medical Superintendent must have primary regard to the needs of the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea and, at times, may have no suitable accommodation available. During 1938 no cases from this district were admitted to the Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases suffering from complications of Measles.

No local action has been taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, but from time to time I have advised local medical practitioners as to how this measles serum can be obtained.

#### *National Campaign to encourage the wider use of the Health Services.*

During the year wide publicity was given to the various Health Services under the auspices of the County Council, etc., by distribution of posters in conspicuous places in the district and by other means. I think that this has resulted in more of the general public knowing of the many Health Services which are available to them with consequent improved use of these Services.



# NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Notifiable Disease	Cases included in Weekly Returns												Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Sex	
	At all ages	At ages														
		0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65				
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	2	—	I	—	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Diphtheria	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	I	3	3
Enteric Fever (Including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary or Acute Influenzal)	I	—	—	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	—	I
Acute Poliomyelitis	I (I)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	I	—	—	I

The figures in parentheses indicate the number of cases in which the diagnosis was not confirmed.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid)	Puerperal Pyrexia	Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenzal)	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Tuberculosis	
										Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1934	—	10	13	—	—	—	2	1	—	5	4
1935	—	4	3	—	—	2	2	1	—	15	1
1936	—	12	10	—	—	5	1	—	—	5	1
1937	—	15	5	—	1	2	—	—	—	12	—
1938	—	2	6	—	—	1	—	—	1 (1)	12	1

The figures in parentheses indicate the number of cases in which the diagnosis was not confirmed.

## 4. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken during the year under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

## (b) TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was taken during 1938 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade.

No action was taken during the year under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

During the year under review, thirteen cases of tuberculosis were notified, twelve respiratory and one non-respiratory. Most of these cases had been notified previously and were re-notified on transferring to this district.

The non-respiratory case was a girl, aged 13 years, notified as suffering from lumbar caries (spine).

Two cases of tuberculosis died during the year, one respiratory and one non-respiratory. The respiratory case was a female, aged 22 years, who had only moved to this district from London a few weeks before her death. She was notified in this district one week before she died.

The non-respiratory case was a female, aged 69 years, who was unnotified in this district and the cause of death was given as spinal caries.

Particulars regarding the date of notification in this district in relation to the date of death will be found under the table showing age groups in regard to new cases and mortality.

The standard of notification in this district was satisfactory during the year, and any unnotified cases are generally the result of recent transfers into the district, the population of which is constantly changing.

There was no evidence of any cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify and there was no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths was 1.2.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age periods		New Cases				Mortality			
		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry		Respiratory		Non-Resp'ry	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—	...	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—	...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	...	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals		4	8	—	1	—	1	—	1

### DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1938 AND PARTICULARS REGARDING NOTIFICATION.

#### WHEN NOTIFIED.

No. of Deaths	After Death	Within 3 months of Death	Within 3-6 months of Death	Within 6-12 months of Death	Within 1-2 years of Death	Within 2-4 years of Death	More than 4 years before Death	Unnotified
2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

## METEOROLOGY.

It might be a matter of interest to add a few remarks in respect of the question of the relationship between the weather and health during the year 1938.

I understand that the year broke all records for warmth in March and November and also gave us a very mild January and February. Apart from its climatic freakishness, 1938 will be remembered as an exceptionally healthy year. The Registrar General's returns show that, compared with 1937, the number of deaths in urban districts of England and Wales had diminished by 5 per cent. and it is probable that the exceptionally frequent and severe gales have helped to secure this clean bill of health; the country has been better ventilated than usual, with atmospheric stagnation—which favours the spread of epidemic diseases—at a minimum.

In the autumn medical experts found that coughs and colds were fewer than usual at that time of year and the unseasonably mild weather was excellent for reducing the number of cases of pneumonia and relieving sufferers from bronchial trouble. There have been no extreme temperatures to cause strain, but towards the latter part of December it will be recalled that the climatic conditions worsened and snow and ice were responsible for corresponding reduction of temperature and aggravation of any disabilities particularly relating to chest trouble.

It is interesting to compare the average annual death rate per 1000 for 1938 for England and Wales (11·6), with the rate for 1929 (13·4) in which year it will be remembered we endured the greatest frost since 1895. Next worse year for mortality came 1937 (12·4) with its bitter March and December.

Some mention was made some months ago of the establishment of a Meteorological Station on Canvey Island and I think that the establishment of such a Station would have been of great interest to the Island.



## AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS ACT, 1937.

I feel that this Report would be incomplete without mentioning the responsibilities which have devolved upon Medical Officers of Health in respect of the Casualty Services, Air Raid Precautions.

Since the crisis of September, 1938, the duties involved for A.R.P. work have increased without abatement, and at the end of the year encroachment on my time amounted to  $33\frac{1}{3}\%$  in respect of these A.R.P. duties.

Under the terms of my Combined Medical Services appointment, on a salary basis, I was permitted to devote to all my Medical Officer of Health duties three days per week.

In respect of my public health duties, this introduces a serious aspect which I felt bound to bring to the notice of my Local Authorities and the Essex County Council. At the time of writing this comment (May, 1939), on the representations of my Local Authorities, my duties were re-allocated as and from 1st April, 1939, but still encroachment, after re-adjustment of A.R.P. work, amounts to about 25% of this time, still without assistance, single-handed and with no deputy.

It would appear to me that this matter should have an early remedy as if it is decided that all A.R.P. duties must receive prompt attention and public health duties must receive due consideration at the same time, assistance is obviously essential. At the time of going to press, I understand that this will be provided at an early date.

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My thanks are due to Dr. W. A. Bullough, County Medical Officer of Health, and to Dr. C. Grant Pugh, Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea, for their advice and help, which has been much appreciated.

Close co-operation between this Department and general practitioners renders all duties pleasant and productive.

My thanks are due to Miss Grudgings for the assistance she has rendered in the compilation of this Report.





